

ACA IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

UPDATING YOU ON PROGRESS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES RELATED TO THE
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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In This Issue!

In this issue of *ACA Implementation News*, we provide links to the latest reports published by the Colorado Health Foundation on reaching the uninsured. Information about an upcoming provider and stakeholder engagement opportunity is provided as well as information about training for PEAK and CBMS Users. Joint messaging for the 2015 open enrollment period is also addressed.

As a reminder, please send us your ACA implementation questions/suggestions so we can provide timely and relevant information to you. Questions, comments and suggestions should be sent to ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us for inclusion in upcoming issues of *ACA Implementation News*.

To sign up for *ACA Implementation News* or the Department's ACA Communication Updates, click [here](#).

You can also find us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@COGovHealth](#) and [YouTube](#).

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News of Note

New Reports on Uninsured Available

The Colorado Health Foundation released two new reports this week on reaching Colorado's that can help inform your outreach strategy for open enrollment 2015.

Culture of Coverage: Audience Research and Message Testing Among Uninsured Coloradans

A cross-sector partnership commissioned this research effort, conducted by Global Strategy Group and Hilltop Public Solutions. The report identifies the messages and communications channels that are most effective for targeted Colorado populations. These include Coloradans eligible for Medicaid and for tax credits through Connect for Health Colorado, as well as young and healthy individuals who may not be eligible for either but who play an important role in ensuring that the health insurance marketplace is balanced and affordable for all. Highlights from the study include:

- **Emphasize the availability of financial assistance.** The perceived costs of insurance are the number one barrier to enrollment. Yet there is a lack of awareness on the specifics of financial assistance, Medicaid and penalties for not being enrolled.
- **Raise awareness of the tax penalties.** Knowledge of escalating penalties for not being adequately insured is fairly low, yet no other piece of information was rated as more important by uninsured Coloradans (55 percent overall).

Barriers to Enrollment in Health Coverage in Colorado

This study, commissioned by the Colorado Health Foundation and conducted by RAND Corporation, examines reasons why uninsured Coloradans eligible for Medicaid and/or tax credits through Connect for Health Colorado are not enrolled in health care coverage. RAND conducted focus groups with uninsured and newly insured individuals across the state and interviews with local stakeholders responsible for enrollment efforts in their regions. This report provides an overview of these findings, highlighting those that were consistent across the state and those that were unique to a given region or population, and offers recommendations to strengthen enrollment efforts. Highlights from the study include:

- **Strengthen marketing and messaging to be clear, actionable and focused on health benefits of insurance.** While consumers had heard about health care reform, they lacked a fundamental understanding of what it was and what it meant for them.
- **Improve the clarity and transparency of insurance and health care costs and enrollment procedures.** In many cases, consumers associated health insurance with a political agenda they did not support and a process they did not understand.

Web-Based Forum on New Federal Provider Screening Regulations

New federal regulations established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require enhanced screening and re-validation of providers enrolling with Colorado Medicaid. These regulations are designed to reduce the potential for Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse.

On **October 23 from 12-1pm**, the Department will present the new federal regulations and begin to collect feedback about how best to implement them in Colorado. This web-based forum will allow providers and stakeholders from across the state to learn about the new requirements and interact with Department staff.

Register for the online webinar here. NOTE: Space is limited. For those who cannot join, the webinar will be recorded and posted on the “Federal Provider Screening Regulations” section of **Colorado.gov/hcpf/provider-implementations**.

Department 2013 Annual Report Available Online

The Department’s 2013 Annual Report is now available online. The report highlights the Department’s activities including the Accountable Care Collaborative, CBMS and PEAK enhancements and others for calendar year 2013 and includes data from Fiscal Year 2012-13 as well as some data from end of the year 2013.

You can find the report on Colorado.gov/HCPF/Publications.

2014 November Enhancements Training for PEAK Users

The PEAK Outreach Team will be hosting two live webinars and a series of in-person training sessions across the state between October 17 and November 10.

Each session will detail November 2014 PEAK enhancements, and you'll learn about how the application process is being streamlined to enhance the PEAK-user experience, including:

- More dynamic application process
- Single application process for Colorado Medicaid/CHP+ and Connect for Health Colorado Financial Assistance
- Program additions to Am I Eligible?, the application and eligibility screening tool
- Improvements to application design, in-application help, account sign-in and benefit management capabilities

To register for the in-person regional events, visit PEAKOutreach.eventbrite.com.

To register for a November 2014 Enhancements webinar:

Friday, November 7, 2014 | 10:00am
[Click here to register](#)

Monday, November 10, 2014 | 9:00am
[Click here to register](#)

For more information on the PEAK trainings, contact PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org.



New Joint Communications Webinar Online Now

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Division of Insurance and Connect for Health Colorado have recorded and posted a new joint communications webinar.

The webinar discusses how community partners can talk about the 2015 open enrollment period. The webinar also provides an overview of the consumer geared resources available to partners.

The new recorded webinar can be found on Colorado.gov/HCPF/Health-Care-Reform → Presentations or by clicking [here](#). You can also download slides by clicking [here](#).

You can submit your questions following the webinar to:

ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us

Training for County Eligibility Workers and MA Sites

The Department will be delivering training to County Eligibility Workers and Medical Assistance (MA) Sites through four Train-the-Trainer sessions and eight Regional Trainings. In addition, an Online Training course will also be available.

CBMS Users can find more information and steps on how to register on TrainColorado.com or by clicking [here](#). Please contact the Staff Development Center at SOC_staffdevelopment@state.co.us if you have questions.

Connect for Health Colorado 2015 Plan Renewal Information

Beginning October 1, Coloradans who purchased private plans began to receive notices if their carrier is changing or no longer offering their plan. Beginning October 20, Connect for Health Colorado and carriers will be sending communications to clients outlining what to do to make sure they do not have a break in 2015 coverage.

1. If a client's plan is being offered in 2015, they are happy with it and Connect for Health Colorado has been able to redetermine the client's federal tax credit, then the client will not need to do anything—their coverage will be auto-renewed by December 15 for 2015 coverage, **OR**
2. If a client's plan has been discontinued and/or Connect for Health Colorado have been unable to redetermine the client's federal tax credit, the client will need to shop for a 2015 plan and reapply for financial assistance.

Connect for Health Colorado anticipates the majority of their customers will choose to 'auto-renew.'

Partners can find more information on the renewal process on the [Connect for Health Colorado website here](#).

Additionally NEW consumer geared FAQs can be found on Colorado.gov/Health or by clicking [here](#).

Resources

Division of Insurance FAQs

New frequently asked questions regarding the 2015 private insurance rates from the Division of Insurance have been posted to Colorado.gov/Health. The FAQs address how rates are assessed and how the 2015 rates compare to the 2014 rates. You can also access the FAQs by clicking [here](#).

From Coverage to Care Resources

[From Coverage to Care](#) is an initiative being spearheaded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to help people with new health care coverage understand their benefits and connect to primary care and the preventive services that are right for them. CMS has created a series of [short videos](#) that describe how to use your coverage, pick a provider, prepare for your appointment and other helpful tips. We encourage you to share these resources with your stakeholders, clients and patients. The videos can be found on Colorado.gov/Health or by clicking [here](#).

CICP Reminder and Fact Sheet

As a reminder, there have been no funding or policy changes to Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP). The Department has developed a fact sheet for CICP. The fact sheet discusses the impact of the ACA on CICP clients. Click [here](#) for the fact sheet or find it at Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources. Click [here](#) for even **more** information about CICP.

Reminders

Selecting a Medicaid Health Plan and Provider Online

New Medicaid clients can now go online to select their Medicaid health plan and primary care medical provider through *HealthColorado*.

HealthColorado's [new online form](#) can only be used by first-time Medicaid clients who are not enrolled in a Medicaid health plan yet and/or first-time Medicaid clients who are enrolled in the Accountable Care Collaborative and want to choose their primary care medical provider. All requests made by the 28th of the month will take affect the first of the following month. The online form can be accessed by visiting www.HealthColorado.org. As always, clients can call *HealthColorado* to select or change their Medicaid health plan or primary care medical provider.

- In Denver: 303-839-2120
- Outside of Denver: 1-888-367-6557
- TTY: 1-888-876-8864
- Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed state holidays).

Check Application Status Online

Coloradans can now check the status of their Assistance Application (includes Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+)) online. To check your application status online go to Colorado.gov/PEAK then log in to your PEAK Account (remember, you can create a PEAK account at any time). You can see your application status, what you need to do to complete your application and who to contact about your application under the Check My Benefits section.